

**CGPSA- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**3:30-5:00**  
**GLC Conference Room 238 or Zoom**

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85740318770>

Meeting ID: 857 4031 8770

**Present:** Adams, Ranald; Austin, Janice; De Jager, Caroline; Hearne, Lindy (proxy sent); Hefny, Mohamed; Hoopes, Barbara; Mises, Cassidy; Ortiz, Gonzalo; Rice, Karl; Saint-Preux, Carlos; Shupe, Sally; Surface, Lauren; Surprenant, Aimée; Sydnor, Shaka; Towsif, Sami

**Absent with Notice:** Gazar, Amir, Learman, Lee

**Absent:** Holloway, Kendall; Kinnaman, Alex; Thomas, Eric; Walters, Tyler

**Guests:** Jackson, Jordan; Myers, April

Ranald called the meeting to order at 3:33.

**1. Adoption of Agenda-Ranald Adams**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

**2. Adoption of Minutes from December 13, 2023-Ranald Adams**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes. The motion carried.

**3. Member Reports**

**a. Graduate School Updates—Dean Surprenant**

**1. \*Giving Day-<https://givingday.vt.edu/giving-day/81643/department/81650>**

\*Dean Surprenant has a 3-tiered challenge:

100 donors (to the Graduate School) of any amount will unlock \$10K for Little Hokie Hangout, donated by alum Jon Rucker

130 donors will unlock \$5K from Dean DePauw

175 donors will unlock \$7500 from Dean Surprenant to be used for the summer Cunningham fellowship.

**2. \*New resources for tools with managing mentorship relationships**

**3. \*GPD Checklists**

\*The Graduate School has been compiling a checklist to summarize the duties and responsibilities of Graduate Program Directors.

**b. Senate Updates-**

**\*GPSS-Rachel Maizel**

\*Caste resolution

\*Suicide investigation discussion

**\*Faculty/Senate-Alex Kinnaman**

\*Upper administration is aware of financial procedures regarding travel and research for students

**\*Administrative and Professional Senate- Gonzalo Ortiz**

\*None

**\*Staff Senate-Sally Shupe**

\*None

**\*USS-Karl Rice**

\*None

**4. General Orders/Discussion Topics-Ranald Adams**

- Discussion of graduate student suicide investigation procedure-Rachel Maizel

\*Feedback from members:

\*\* Consider other VT campuses. Do not limit to Blacksburg.

\*\* Has the DOS, VTPD, Cook/Schiffert, HR/employee relations been looped in? Rachel said the DOS directed her back to the Grad School

\*\* Doctoral students and advisors (what about masters students?) Language should be inclusive of all students.

\*\* A member brought up that they don't always have all of the information on a student's death. Some information is hard to obtain.

\*\* Next steps for this discussion is to invite stakeholders to a meeting.

- First reading of CGPSA Resolution 2023-24A Resolution to Protect Against Caste and Caste-based Discrimination-Ranald Adams

\*Basically, this resolution adds one word and references defining the word to the existent policy.

\*A member asked who was included in the discussion of this resolution. Response: CEOD, AIM, APIDA, and VT community members.

\*A member suggested having CEOD join a CGPSA meeting. A joint resolution could be an option.

\*A member asked if there were other institutions in Virginia who has this policy. There are none.

\*This resolution goes to the senate next for a first read.

**5. Announcements-**

\*Lauren Surface shared that the GPSS Research Symposium will March 27. Grad Ed Week is March 25-29.

**6. Adjournment-**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:13.